

## Work Task E16: Conservation Area Site Selection

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$0	\$134,814	\$134,814	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

**Contact:** Terry Murphy, (702) 293-8140

**Start Date:** FY05 **Expected Duration:** FY30

**Long-term Goal:** Develop and utilize a standardized process to identify and prioritize potential conservation areas to develop the most cost-effective areas to fulfill the habitat creation requirements of the LCR MSCP.

**Conservation Measures:** None

**Location:** Program-wide, Reaches 1-7, AZ, CA, and NV

**Purpose:** Develop and utilize guidelines to provide Reclamation with a consistent and transparent method for screening and evaluating the suitability of lands that are made available to Reclamation for use as Conservation Areas.

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** The process developed under this Work Task will guide the selection of future Conservation Area sites to be developed under Section E Work Tasks.

**Project Description:** Guidelines will be developed to describe the process for working with interested parties to identify sites for screening and evaluation to determine their suitability to become Conservation Areas for creating and maintaining habitat over the term of the LCR MSCP. After the development of the guidelines, screening of the sites that are identified will be conducted under this Work Task.

Reclamation intends to work with willing partners to secure an interest in land and water sufficient to create and maintain LCR MSCP habitats. It is anticipated that willing landowners will enter into some type of long-term agreement that secures an interest in land and water through the 50-year term of the LCR MSCP.

**FY05 Accomplishments:** A contract was awarded in September 2005 to develop the guidelines for Conservation Area site selection. Drafting of the guidelines, review and acceptance by the Steering Committee, and finalization of the guidelines is scheduled for FY06.

**FY06 Activities:** Preliminary draft guidelines for the site selection of potential Conservation Areas were drafted and reviewed by a Steering Committee technical work group. The draft is currently being revised to incorporate comments. A final draft is anticipated to be distributed in

August 2006. These final draft guidelines will remain in draft form through one cycle, to allow time to validate their accuracy and applicability.

**Proposed FY07 Activities:** In an effort to identify additional properties available for development, Reclamation will begin implementing the conservation area site selection process. Fewer properties are expected to be screened in FY07 as Reclamation is currently engaged in developing several habitat creation sites (E4, E5, and E14).

**Pertinent Reports:** *Draft Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas* will be posted on the LCR MSCP website.